



REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35

Assemblymember

Pedro Nava



www.assembly.ca.gov/nava

JANUARY 2008

Nava Holds State Briefing to Examine Greka Environmental Record

Greka Spills half million gallons in 8 years

Santa Barbara - Pedro Nava, Chair of the Joint Committee on Emergency Services & Homeland Security held a Santa Barbara briefing on January 4, 2008, less than a month after touring a Greka spill, to review numerous Greka environmental violations. The US Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, Central Coast Water Quality Control Board, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, Santa Barbara County Fire Department and the Santa Barbara County Administrator's office detailed Greka's dismal record.

"Since 2005, they have spilled almost 300,000 gallons of polluted material. It's hard to understand how a company that has been cited an average of every 10 days for environmental violations and has multiple oil spills can escape public scrutiny for so long," said Nava. "In just the last two months, Greka has spilled about 160,000 gallons of toxic material. My heart goes out to Greka's employees. They deserve better. I am encouraged that Greka has appointed a new president who has vowed to greatly improve their operations."

Continued on page 2, see "Greka"



Santa Barbara 2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf testifies during January 4 Greka briefing.

Making a Difference

There are many wonderful people and organizations that impact the 35th Assembly District. From time to time, we will profile them in the feature "Making a Difference."

Local Manager for CA State Parks Retires After 31 Years of Public Service

Will serve as special adviser to Assemblymember Nava on district issues

Richard Rojas, 51, of Goleta, who has headed the Channel Coast District for the California State Parks as district superintendent for the past seven years, has retired. In that post, he was the top manager of all state parks and beaches in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Upon retirement in December 2007, he completed 31 years of public service, more than half of which was with California State Parks' Channel Coast District.

"I appreciate the invaluable work Rich has done for our Central Coast community throughout his career, and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement," said Assemblymember Nava. "He has always been a trusted resource for my office. He truly understands the importance of stewardship and conservation."



Rich Rojas

Continued on page 2, see "Rojas"

Continued from page 1, "Greka"

For the past 8 years Greka has been responsible for nearly half a million gallons of spilled oil and processed water, cited for hundreds of air and water violations, and repeatedly been the subject of criminal investigations. Mr. Nava and the panelists from the various federal, state, and local government bodies discussed ways in which they could work together to address the problems presented by Greka's operations in the Central Coast Region. Nava already has legislation to be introduced based on the input he received from the panelists. "This situation demands immediate action. I'm ready to move ahead," said Nava.

For further information on Greka's environmental record, please go to www.assembly.ca.gov/nava/grekaupdate.htm.

Continued from page 1, "Rojas"

Rojas has been responsible for twelve state parks and beaches in western Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties: Mandalay, McGrath, San Buenaventura and Emma Wood State Beaches in Ventura County and Carpinteria, El Capitan, Point Sal and Refugio State Beaches, Gaviota State Park and El Presidio de Santa Barbara, Chumash Painted Cave and La Purisima Mission State Historic Parks in Santa Barbara County.

Aside from volunteering in Assemblymember Nava's Santa Barbara District Office as a Special Adviser, Rojas' immediate plans are to spend quality time with his family and friends before seeking opportunities to help at-risk youth in the community. He also plans to remain active in protecting the parks and open space along Santa Barbara County's Gaviota Coast.

Santa Barbara County Law Enforcement Promotes and Executes Successful Holiday "Avoid the 12" Campaign

211 DUI arrests made



Assemblymember Nava stands with (right) Captain Jeff Sgoba and (left) Deputy Win Smith.

Goleta – Assemblymember Pedro Nava, the California Highway Patrol, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, UCSB Police, Santa Barbara County Fire Department and American Medical Response gathered in December to host a Holiday Traffic Safety press conference. The event took place a day after a fatal accident on the 101 Freeway left a 20-year-old woman dead, an 11-year CHP motorcycle officer hospitalized and a 20-year-old Paso Robles man locked in Ventura County Jail facing felony DUI charges.

"Let's hope what happened yesterday is a sobering event, with the emphasis on sobering," Nava said. "The fallout from this kind of an accident is more profound than people can imagine. It's hard to come back from this type of a tragedy," said Assemblymember Nava.

The press conference highlighted the importance of safe driving during the Holiday Season, and featured a crashed vehicle as a backdrop to underscore what can happen when tragedy strikes. The press conference focused on law enforcement's efforts to keep the roads safe and to encourage responsible driving especially during the "Avoid the 12" 19-Day DUI Crackdown from Dec. 14 through midnight New Year's day.

As a result of the "Avoid the 12" campaign, law enforcement officers in Santa Barbara County made 211 arrests for driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, up 28 percent from the 2006 campaign total of 165. Eleven DUI injury crashes occurred, half the total of 22 last year and down even more from 25 the year before the campaign started according to Deputy Win Smith of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept., Avoid the 12 Coordinator. Visit <http://avoidthe12.org/> for more information on the Campaign.

Resolving to be prepared in 2008

By Ventura County Sheriff Bob Brooks



The beginning of the New Year provides us an opportunity to reflect on the past and make resolutions to fulfill new goals in the coming year.

The recent rains, flooding and devastating fires in California and other national and international disasters remind us that disaster can come at any time and in any form. As the Director of Emergency Services for Ventura County, I am keenly aware that even the most prepared government response will not be enough if citizens have not prepared themselves for times of emergency.

By taking the following steps outlined you and your family will be more prepared for any emergency.

Creating an emergency supply which should include the following:

- One gallon of water per person per day
- Non-perishable foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking
- First aid kit, essential medications and eye glasses
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Portable radio, flashlight and spare batteries
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Household bleach for disinfecting and water purification
- Sturdy shoes and change of clothes
- Important family document such as copies of insurance policies, identification and other vital documents in a waterproof, portable container
- Food and water for pets

Creating a family emergency plan which should include the following:

Pick two places to meet in the event of an emergency. One right outside of your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire. A second location outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home or are asked to leave your neighborhood.

Pick two out-of-town contacts for communication. One should be a friend or relative who will be your household's primary contact and the second will serve as an alternate. Discuss what to do if a family member is injured or ill.

Discuss what to do if authorities advise you to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Be familiar with evacuation routes. Plan how to take care of your pets. Pets (other than service animals) are usually not permitted in public shelters or places where food is served.

Sheriff Bob Brooks is a 30-year veteran of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. He was elected Sheriff in 1998.

For more information please go to:

Ventura County: www.countyofventura.org follow the link titled "Disaster Information"

Santa Barbara County: <http://www.sbcfire.com/dp/kit.html>

Assemblymember Nava Announces the Availability of Assembly Fellowship Program Applications

Sacramento - Ask Ben Turner, a recent UCSB graduate about the Fellowship. He's now working in Assemblymember Nava's Capitol Office after reading an article like this last year. Assemblymember Nava is again announcing the availability of applications for the 2008-2009 Assembly Fellowship Program. The 11-month fellowship program gives college graduates the opportunity of a lifetime to become full-time Assembly staff members working on fiscal and policy issues in an Assemblymember's Capitol or committee office. Fellows also participate in a weekly academic seminar with Assemblymembers, senior staff, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials, earning 12 graduate credits from California State University, Sacramento. Fellows are also paid a monthly stipend of \$1,972 and receive health, dental, and vision benefits. The California State Assembly, in conjunction with the Center for California Studies at Sac State, administers the program.



"The Assembly Fellowship Program offers post-baccalaureate students and mid-career professionals the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of the legislative process," said Assemblymember Nava. "The program provides a challenging, professional work experience that serves as the foundation for successful careers in both the public and private sectors."

To be eligible, applicants must have earned their undergraduate degree by September 2008. No specific major is preferred, and recent fellows have had various majors (e.g., agricultural science, communications, drama, ethnic studies, political science). Applications are available at Assemblymember Pedro Nava's Capitol office, or by calling the Ventura County district office at (805) 483-9808 or the Santa Barbara County district office at (805) 564-1649. You may also request an application online from the Center for California Studies at www.csus.edu/calst/assembly, by email at calstudies@csus.edu, or by phone at (916) 319-3753.

Final selection of the 18 Assembly Fellows is made in May 2008 after an initial screening of applications and a subsequent panel interview of semifinalists. The postmark deadline for submitting applications is **February 27, 2008**.

Free cash for college

Assemblymember Pedro Nava hosts:

FREE CAL GRANT WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 9th, 2008
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pacifica High School
600 East Gonzalez Rd. Oxnard



ITEMS TO BRING

- FAFSA PIN number for electronic file. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to obtain one
- Federal Income Tax Return (2006 returns if 2007 not completed)
- W-2 Forms or pay check stubs
- Bank Statements

WHO CAN APPLY

- High School Seniors
- High School graduates and GED holders within one year of graduation/completion
- Community College transfer students under the age of 24

Counselors will be on hand to walk you through the process of applying for a Cal Grant and a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Parents encouraged to attend.

For more information, please call 805-483-9808

Co-Sponsored by:



In Profile: Capitol Staff

A dedicated

team: (from left to right)

Jillena Eifer, Ben Turner, Assemblymember Nava, Jim Deboo, Jenna Von Esmarch, Jackie Koenig



The Capitol Office serves as Assemblymember Nava's policy hub where his legislative agenda is formed on the issues that Californians care most about such as education, health, transportation, emergency preparedness, and the environment. His experienced staff has assisted Assemblymember Nava with achieving bi-partisan support for his legislation and having the bills signed into law.

Jim DeBoo

Jim currently serves as Chief of Staff to Assemblymember Nava. Prior to this selection, Jim served as Chief of Staff to a former member of the State Assembly and as a Senior Advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction and former State Senator Jack O'Connell. He has worked for representatives for the Counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo the majority of his career.

Jackie Koenig

Jackie is Pedro's Legislative Director. She has worked on a variety of issues in the policy and political arenas for the past eight years. She began her career as a Field Representative for former Assemblyman Ted Lempert, and later worked as a Senior Legislative Aide for former Assemblyman Joe Nation concentrating on education policy and budget analysis. In 2006, she worked in the office of the CEO for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) as a Board Relations Specialist. Most recently she was a Senior Analyst for Children Now. Jackie earned her masters degree in Public Policy from the University of Southern California, and her B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. She currently lives in Sacramento with her husband, David, a political consultant.

Jillena Eifer

Jillena Eifer is now a Legislative Aide in Pedro's Capitol Office. She worked for 2 years as Pedro's District Director in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Her issue areas include Business and Professions, Banking and Finance, Judiciary, Public Safety, and Veteran Affairs. She is originally from Los Angeles and is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Jenna von Esmarch

Jenna von Esmarch, a graduate of California State University Sacramento, has worked in the Capitol for nearly a decade and is the scheduler in Nava's Capitol office and is also responsible for legislation.

Ben Turner

Ben Turner grew up in Amador County, located in the Central Sierra Foothills. He completed his undergraduate and masters degrees in the Geography Department at UCSB. He is currently in the Assembly Fellowship Program working in Assemblymember Nava's capitol office. In his first month on the job, Ben helped organize the successful January 2008 Environmental Briefing on Greka's numerous violations.

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